



PTO/SB/21 (08-03)

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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| TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) | Application Number | 10/696,754 |
| | Filing Date | October 29, 2003 |
| | First Named Inventor | PETER GERHARDINGER |
| | Art Unit | |
| | Examiner Name | |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission | Attorney Docket Number | 1-15693 |

| ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply) | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Technology Center (TC) |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> After Final | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application | <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) | Remarks | No References |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | | |

| SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Firm or Individual name | MARSHALL & MELHORN, LLC |
| Signature | Stephen G. Kimmet |
| Date | 1-13-04 |

| CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING | |
|---|---------------------|
| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below. | |
| Typed or printed name | ROBERTA A. WINZELER |
| Signature | Roberta A. Winzeler |
| Date | 1/13/04 |

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Roberta A. Winzeler

(Name)

Roberta A. Winzeler
(Signature)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/696,754
Applicant : PETER GERHARDINGER
Filed : October 29, 2003
TC/A.U. :
Examiner :
Docket No. : 1-15693
Customer No. : 001678

January 13, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

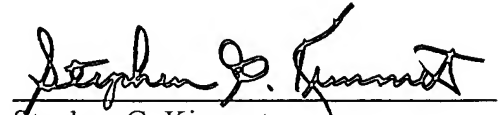
Honorable Sir:

Pursuant to Section 1.97 of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations, record is hereby made of information, which the United States Patent and Trademark Office may wish to consider during examination of the above-entitled application. No representation is made or intended that a prior art search was conducted, or that no better information than that listed is available.

As this IDS is being submitted prior to the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, it is submitted that no prior art consideration fee is required.

Form PTO/SB/08A, which lists the documents, is enclosed herewith. It is requested that it be fully considered and made of record in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen G. Kimmet", written over a horizontal line.

Stephen G. Kimmet
Registration No. 52,488

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PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1

of 1

Complete if Known

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| Application Number | 10/696,754 |
| Filing Date | October 29, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | PETER GERHARDINGER |
| Art Unit | |
| Examiner Name | |
| Attorney Docket Number | 1-15693 |

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| | | US- 3,047,702 | 07-31-1962 | Lefebvre | Whole document |
| | | US- 4,492,217 | 01-08-1985 | Scheidler | Whole document |
| | | US- 5,679,273 | 10-21-1997 | Petetin | Whole document |
| | | US- 6,100,503 | 08-08-2000 | Sasaki, et al. | Whole document |
| | | US- 6,236,024 | 05-22-2001 | Gotz, et al. | Whole document |
| | | US- 20030127452-A1 | 07-10-2003 | Gerhardinger, et al. | Whole document |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
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Examiner
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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